NWT Skiers Place Sixth at Nationals

Mont-Ste-Anne, QC (March 25, 2007) – The NWT Ski Division finished 6th of 13 participating provinces and territories at Cross Country Canada's National Championships. NWT cross-country skiers Mike Argue and Thomsen D'Hont each added strong performances after their silver medal in the team sprint a week ago. Argue showed his versatility by finishing 6th in a 55-racer field in the 15-kilometre classic in the Open Men category, in a strong time of 42:03.7. Argue was 16th in the individual aggregate totals.

D'Hont had an impressive showing in a strong field in the Junior-A Men's 1.2-kilometre classic sprint. The Yellowknifer made it all the way to the A-final and was the 5th Canadian across the finish line. D'Hont finished tied for 11th place overall in his category.

Sarah Daitch added to the top ten performances with an 8th place finish in the Open Women's 5-kilometre freestyle. She followed this up with a 6th place effort in the 30-kilometre skate today, in an impressive time of 1:26:48.7. Daitch finished 7th overall in her four-race aggregate. The Fort Smither was also crowned the Madshus Sprint Series champion. The award was based on the best four finishes of Canadian sprinters in a season long seven race series. Daitch's 110 points placed her comfortably ahead of all of her other rivals. She received a trophy for her sprinting excellence.

Sarah Hanthorn of Fort McPherson gained valuable experience competing in her first Nationals. The fourteen year old raced in the Juvenile Girl category. Her strongest finish was 45th in 5-kilometer classic. Her progress in making it to the Nationals from a small northern club is indicative of her strong commitment to cross country skiing.

NWT ski coach, Corey McLachlan, also completed a highly successful season. A former high-level NWT racer, McLachlan guided Brendan Green to a gold medal at Canada Winter Games and has been influential in the evolution of Thomsen D'Hont as a strong presence on the Canadian sprinting scene.

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